

# ADT PLM

## Programmer's Learning Machine

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IJD Seminar, 2016-02-02

## 1 Presentation of PLM

- Purposes
- Demo
- About PLM
- Architecture

## 2 User's code's assessment

- Challenges
- Extraction of the execution component
- Docker

## 3 Result

## 4 Next steps

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# Presentation of PLM

## Purposes

- Application to learn programming.

# Presentation of PLM

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- Allows students to progress at their own speed...

# Presentation of PLM

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- Application to learn programming.
- Allows students to progress at their own speed...
- ... while the teacher helps the ones having trouble.

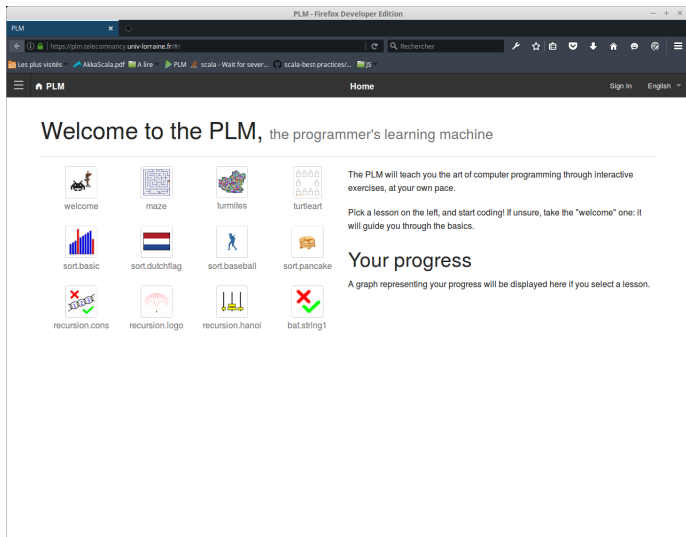
# Presentation of PLM

## Purposes

- Application to learn programming.
- Allows students to progress at their own speed...
- ... while the teacher helps the ones having trouble.
- Used at TELECOM Nancy since 2008.

# Presentation of PLM

## Quick demo





# Presentation of PLM

12 lessons, 200 exercises

PLM - Mozilla Firefox

https://plm.univ-lorraine.fr/la/lessons/maze/mazeWallFollowerWallFollowerMaze

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PLM Maze / WallFollowerMaze Se connecter Java Français

World Objective



Résultats de l'exécution

Éditeur de code:

```
public void run() {  
    // ...  
}
```

Cas de tests:

Another labyrinth Labyrinth

# Presentation of PLM

12 lessons, 200 exercises

PLM - Mozilla Firefox

https://plm.univ-lorraine.fr/.../recursion/hanoi/hanoi.lessons/hanoi.Hanoi

Recherche

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PLM Recursion.hanoi / HanoiBoard Se connecter Java Français

World Objective

0 Move



Résultats de l'exécution

Cas de tests:

solve(0,1,2) solve(1,2,0) solve(2,0,1)

Éditeur de code: Réinitialiser API

```
public void hanoi(int height, int src, int other, int dest) {  
    // ...  
}
```

# Presentation of PLM

12 lessons, 200 exercises

PLM - Mozilla Firefox

https://plm.univ-lorraine.fr/ta/lessons/recursion/logo/recursion/logo/tree.Tre

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PLM Recursion.logo / Tree Se connecter Java Français

World Objective



Éditeur de code: Réinitialiser API

```
public void tree(int steps, double length, double angle, double shrink) {  
    // ...  
}
```

Résultats de l'exécution

Cas de tests:

tree(10,100,90,0.68)	▶	tree(10,80,45,0.7)	▶
tree(7,75,15,0.8)	▶	tree(7,75,30,0.8)	▶

# Presentation of PLM

## Supported languages

- English
- French
- Brazilian Portuguese

# Presentation of PLM

Supported programming languages



# Presentation of PLM

## Evolution of the project

- Formerly a fat client
  - Written in Java

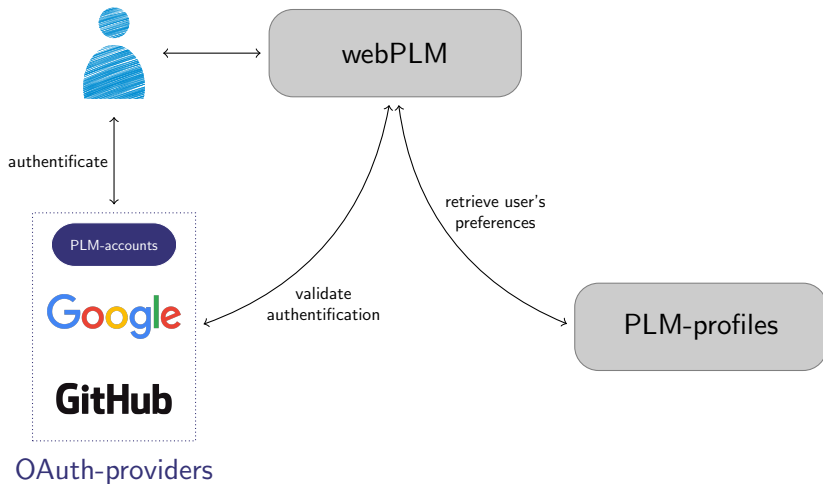
# Presentation of PLM

## Evolution of the project

- Formerly a fat client
  - Written in Java
- Switch to a web application
  - Server implemented in Scala using PlayFramework
  - User interface written in Javascript using AngularJS and Foundation

# Presentation of PLM

## Application's architecture





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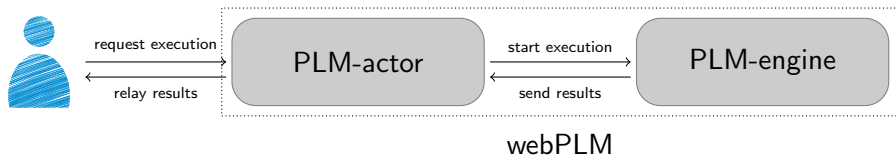
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# User's code's assessment

## Execution components



# User's code's assessment

## Limits

- Run on the same machine, same JVM

# User's code's assessment

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- Run on the same machine, same JVM
- How to protect ourselves from users' rookie mistakes?
  - Infinite loops

# User's code's assessment

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- Run on the same machine, same JVM
- How to protect ourselves from users' rookie mistakes?
  - Infinite loops
- And from more malicious "mistakes"?
  - Infinite thread creation
  - Storage jamming with files

# User's code's assessment

## Limits

- Run on the same machine, same JVM
- How to protect ourselves from users' rookie mistakes?
  - Infinite loops
- And from more malicious "mistakes"?
  - Infinite thread creation
  - Storage jamming with files
- And from *System.exit(whatever)*?

# User's code's assessment

## Limits

- Run on the same machine, same JVM
- How to protect ourselves from users' rookie mistakes?
  - Infinite loops
- And from more malicious "mistakes"?
  - Infinite thread creation
  - Storage jamming with files
- And from *System.exit(whatever)*?
- Scalability issues

# User's code's assessment

## Chosen solution

- Delegate the execution to workers
  - Called *Judges* in the litterature



# User's code's assessment

## Chosen solution

- Delegate the execution to workers
  - Called *Judges* in the litterature
- *Let it crash* strategy
  - Handle timeout and crash

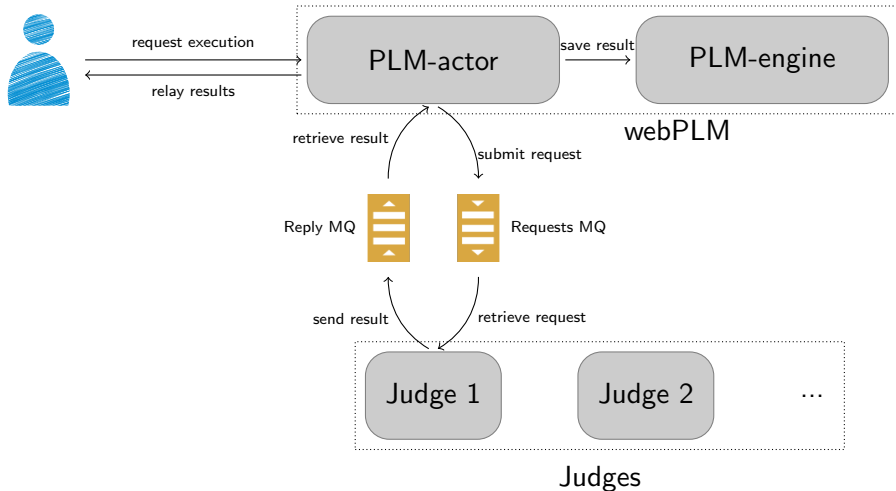
# User's code's assessment

## Chosen solution

- Delegate the execution to workers
  - Called *Judges* in the litterature
- *Let it crash* strategy
  - Handle timeout and crash
- Distribute workload using message queues
  - One queue for requests
  - One queue per result

# User's code's assessment

## Architecture with judges



- Pros:
  - Allow to run code without impacting webPLM's performances
  - Meet the scalability requirements

# User's code's assessment

- Pros:
  - Allow to run code without impacting webPLM's performances
  - Meet the scalability requirements
- Cons:
  - Need to deploy them easily
  - Should be able to reset them
  - Have to restrict their resources usage

# User's code's assessment

## Docker

- Build image of your application
- Run containers based on images
- Lightweight virtualization



# User's code's assessment

## Example of Dockerfile

- Dockerfiles describe how to set up the application

```
Dockerfile
1 FROM node:latest
2
3 MAINTAINER Matthieu Nicolas, matthieu.nicolas@inria.fr
4
5 WORKDIR /app
6
7 # Required for PhantomJS
8 RUN apt-get install -y bzip2
9
10 # Install Mean.JS Prerequisites
11 RUN npm install -g grunt-cli
12 RUN npm install -g bower
13
14 # Install Mean.JS packages
15 ADD package.json /app/package.json
16 RUN npm install
17
18 # Manually trigger bower. Why doesnt this work via npm install?
19 ADD .bowerrc /app/.bowerrc
20 ADD bower.json /app/bower.json
21 RUN bower install --config.interactive=false --allow-root
22
23 # Make everything available for start
24 ADD . /app
25
26 ENV NODE_ENV production
27
28 # Port 3000 for server
29 # Port 35729 for livereload
30 EXPOSE 3000 35729
31 CMD ["grunt"]
```

- Run *docker build -t tag /path/to/Dockerfile* to build the image
- Start containers with *docker run tag*

# User's code's assessment

More about Docker

- Can also manage
  - Ports



# User's code's assessment

More about Docker

- Can also manage
  - Ports
  - Volumes

# User's code's assessment

More about Docker

- Can also manage
  - Ports
  - Volumes
  - Links between containers

# User's code's assessment

More about Docker

- Can also manage
  - Ports
  - Volumes
  - Links between containers
  - Environment variables
  - Runtime constraints on resources
  - Restart policies
  - And a **lot more**

# User's code's assessment

## More about Docker

- Can also manage
  - Ports
  - Volumes
  - Links between containers
  - Environment variables
  - Runtime constraints on resources
  - Restart policies
  - And a **lot more**
- Commands can become quite complex

```
docker run -p 443:9443 -link plm-accounts:accounts -v  
~/webPLM/logs/:/app/webplm-dist/logs webPLM
```

# User's code's assessment

Docker-compose

# User's code's assessment

Docker in our case

- Deploy easily all components
- Restart judges automatically
- Hold out against users' mischiefs

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# Result

Current architecture



# Result

Live-session in TELECOM Nancy

- 30 hours of live testing with 100 students.

# Result

Live-session in TELECOM Nancy

- 30 hours of live testing with 100 students.
- Engine is (almost) working fine...

# Result

Live-session in TELECOM Nancy

- 30 hours of live testing with 100 students.
- Engine is (almost) working fine...
- ... but user experience needs to be improved!

# Result

Live-session in TELECOM Nancy

- Can't cope with the workload.

# Result

Live-session in TELECOM Nancy

- Can't cope with the workload.
- No tools for monitoring set up...

# Result

Live-session in TELECOM Nancy

- Can't cope with the workload.
- No tools for monitoring set up...
- ... so the bottleneck is unknown.

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# Next steps

## Refactor the code

- Rushed to release a stable version before September...
- Needed to refactor some parts of the code.
- Standardized behavior of local and server mode.



# Next steps

Simplify workflow to adapt the content

- Store most content inside PLM.
- Heavy and error prone workflow.
- Need to extract the content from PLM's jar.
- Allow to implement an exercise editor.

# Next steps

Solve performance issues

- Set up some monitoring tools.
- Perform some load testing to identify the bottleneck.

Thanks for your attention, any questions?